

GOSUKE TANIGUCHI, after having been duly sworn, testified at the Mandai Prisoners of War Camp, Makassar, Celebes, on 11 April 1946, as follows:

Q What is your name, age, nationality, religion, marital status, and home address?

A Gosuke TANIGUCHI, 53 years old, Japanese, Buddhist, married, Tokyo, Shiba-Ku, Mita Koyama Cho, #8.

Q What is your wife's name?

A Mitsue TANIGUCHI.

Q Are you a member of the Imperial Japanese Forces?

A Yes, I am a Captain in the Japanese Navy.

Q How long have you been in the Navy?

A 36 years.

Q When did you come to Celebes?

A August 13, 1944.

Q What was your assignment in Celebes?

A On the 13th of August 1944 I arrived in Celebes and was stationed at Kendari. My duty was to take care of the transport of supplies to the 4th Southern Area Fleet which had its headquarters at Ambon.

Q How long did you remain in this unit?

A Until March 1945, although part of this service was in name only because there was a shortage of supplies and we had nothing very much to send to Ambon. In September 1944 I was appointed commanding officer of the 23rd Special Naval Base detachment at Kendari, which was under the command of the Second Southern Area Dispatch Fleet. I remained in this assignment until 16 December 1945. In the beginning of April 1945 I was appointed commanding officer of the Tokkei Tai stationed at Kendari.

Q Do you know of any Americans being detained at Kendari?

A Yes. I know of nine men in October 1944 and one man in January 1945, and two men in February 1945.

Q Will you tell me what you know of the nine men in October 1944?

A A PBV-5 (?) left Morotai 1 October 1944 on a flight to Celebes. On that same day the plane was fired on and hit by Japanese gunfire and the plane crashed off the eastern coast of Celebes, north of Kendari near an island. I forgot the name of the island, probably Salabangka. I was told that eleven men were in the plane but two of them died in the crash.

GOSUKE TANIGUCHI, after having been duly sworn, testified at the Mandai Prisoners of War Camp, Makassar, Celebes, on 11 April 1946, as follows:

Q What is your name, age, nationality, religion, marital status, and home address?

A Gosuke TANIGUCHI, 53 years old, Japanese, Buddhist, married, Tokyo, Shiba-Ku, Mita Koyama Cho, #8.

Q What is your wife's name?

A Mitsue TANIGUCHI.

Q Are you a member of the Imperial Japanese Forces?

A Yes, I am a Captain in the Japanese Navy.

Q How long have you been in the Navy?

A 36 years.

Q When did you come to Celebes?

A August 13, 1944.

Q What was your assignment in Celebes?

A On the 13th of August 1944 I arrived in Celebes and was stationed at Kendari. My duty was to take care of the transport of supplies to the 4th Southern Area Fleet which had its headquarters at Ambon.

Q How long did you remain in this unit?

A Until March 1945, although part of this service was in name only because there was a shortage of supplies and we had nothing very much to send to Ambon. In September 1944 I was appointed commanding officer of the 23rd Special Naval Base detachment at Kendari, which was under the command of the Second Southern Area Dispatch Fleet. I remained in this assignment until 16 December 1945. In the beginning of April 1945 I was appointed commanding officer of the Tokkei Tai stationed at Kendari.

Q Do you know of any Americans being detained at Kendari?

A Yes. I know of nine men in October 1944 and one man in January 1945, and two men in February 1945.

Q Will you tell me what you know of the nine men in October 1944?

A A PBV-5 (?) left Morotai 1 October 1944 on a flight to Celebes. On that same day the plane was fired on and hit by Japanese gunfire and the plane crashed off the eastern coast of Celebes, north of Kendari near an island. I forgot the name of the island, probably Salabangka. I was told that eleven men were in the plane but two of them died in the crash.

The natives reported that nine men were on an island and also gave the approximate location and I dispatched a boat, about 70 or 80 tons, and about ten men to pick them up. They were brought to Kendari and I turned them over to Lt. Saburo TAKITA who was commanding officer of Tokkei Tai. As soon as the prisoners reached Kendari I informed Admiral Morikazu OSUGI at Makassar and Admiral Tamotsu FURUKAWA at Kendari. Admiral FURUKAWA was commanding officer of 23rd Air Unit. Admiral OSUGI was commanding officer of 23rd Special Naval Base.

- Q Was Lt. TAKITA a member of the 23rd Special Naval Base unit?
- A Yes.
- Q How long were these nine Americans kept at Kendari?
- A About six or seven weeks.
- Q Were they interrogated while at Kendari?
- A Yes, an interpreter, NOSE (civilian interpreter), was sent from Makassar and the staff officer of the 23rd Air Unit questioned them.
- Q Do you know the first name of NOSE or where he is at present?
- A I don't know his first name nor where he is.
- Q What was the name of the staff officer who questioned them?
- A The Senior Staff Officer was SONOKAW (FNU), Commander. He left in February 1946 for Japan.
- Q Did you question the prisoners when they arrived in Kendari?
- A Yes. I asked them some questions although no record was kept of this. I asked such questions as: name, rank, age, and how many times did they come to Kendari. All of them told me this was their first trip and that they had just come from America via Australia and New Guinea. I then told them that I was very sorry for them and that I would try and give them the best treatment possible. I advised them to answer the questions that would be asked by the authorities.
- Q Do you remember the names of these men?
- A There was a first lieutenant and I believe his name was either LIBBY or LIDDY. I don't remember the names of the others.
- Q Do you know their ranks?
- A I think they were non-commissioned officers. The lieutenant told me that the two who died were officers. The first lieutenant told me he was a navigator.

RESTRICTED

Q Were you the first one to question these men?

A I believe I was.

Q Did these nine Americans carry any papers or records of any sort?

A Yes, they had some pictures (wives, etc.), Japanese money, foreign money, glasses, and first aid kit. That's all about I remember now. They also had an IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) set. Tokkei Tai made a list of all the articles and sent me a list and I forwarded the list to Makassar. I received orders from Makassar to send the IFF set to Makassar. The other articles were kept by Tokkei Tai. I don't know what happened to the articles.

Q How were these prisoners dressed when you interrogated them?

A I believe one of them had khaki coveralls with a zipper. One was barefooted. Some had no shirt except undershirt. My memory is not clear and I am not sure about the dress.

Q Were you present when Tokkei Tai interrogated these prisoners?

A I passed the room several times but never stayed. I received a report from Tokkei Tai stating names, rank, age, and unit they were attached to. I sent the report back to Tokkei Tai. I believe NOSE took the report back to Makassar with him.

Q Were you present when the staff officer interrogated them?

A I passed several times but never stayed to listen.

Q When were these men interrogated in Tokkei Tai?

A About 10 October.

Q You say that these nine men were kept at the Tokkei Tai six or seven weeks. Then what happened?

A I received an order by radio about 23 November 1944 from Makassar to execute the nine American prisoners.

Q Who sent the message?

A Admiral OSUGI.

Q Exactly what did the message say?

A I don't remember the exact words. It either said to dispose of or execute the prisoners and I am not sure which but it was so worded that a possibility of mistake was very unlikely.

Q What action did you take upon receipt of this order?

A Lt. TAKITA brought the message to me and I told him

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

that we may as well go ahead with it. TAKITA said that he would make the arrangements and I told him that would be fine and that I would leave it up to him. TAKITA reported back to me that day and said that plans had been made to execute the prisoners the next day or two days later at about sunset. I approved of this plan and cautioned TAKITA to abide by the Samurai Code. About this time the Tokkei Tai received orders from the 23rd Air Unit at Kendari to send four of the prisoners to them. TAKITA brought the message to me. The order came from Commander SONOKAWA. I saw no order. TAKITA told me about it and I don't know how the message was sent. TAKITA said that the 23rd Air Unit wanted to execute four. The orders from Admiral OSUGI were to execute the nine prisoners so I didn't object to sending them for all that I was interested in was that they be executed and the place and by whom was immaterial. I heard that a car was sent from 23rd Air Unit to take the four back as it was about an hour drive.

Q
A

What happened to the other five?

They were executed either the next day or two days later as scheduled. I did not attend the execution but received the report from TAKITA. TAKITA did not attend the execution either but assigned Ensign CHUMA to do it. I thought at the time that Ensign CHUMA executed the five but I learned since that Ensign CHUMA executed only one and Ensign MITANI, Toshio, Warrant Officer OGAWA (FNU), Warrant Officer YAMAMOTO (FNU), Chief Petty Officer TANAKA (FNU), executed one each.

We heard that a Dutch plane was coming to investigate us 25 November 1945 so we talked it over and the conversation got around to American trials and we heard that Americans punished the ones who actually performed the execution as well as the one who ordered it done and it was at this time that I learned that CHUMA did not execute all of them but those I have just named also helped. I heard in this same conversation that the Americans punished the one who gave the orders as well as the one who performed the execution. We thought that some American officers were coming in that plane but when it came there were Dutchmen only, so I had done some unnecessary worrying.

Q
A

Who is the "we" you keep mentioning?

Just some people I ate with who had nothing to do with the incident. They had just heard about it. They were: Lt. NOSAKA, Lt. FUJINO, Ensign M.C. KAMI-KUBO, Ensign DAN, Lt. (jg) FUJITANI.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Q What else do you know about the execution?
A TAKITA reported to me that the men had been executed and also brought a radio message for my signature. It stated that the prisoners had been executed as ordered by radio message number (?). I signed this message and it was sent to Admiral OSUGI and I never heard more. I would like to add that all Japanese radio messages are numbered and the number shows date and the hour.

Q You said you notified Admiral OSUGI that the nine men were executed. How do you know the four men ordered by Commander SONOKAWA were executed?

A One of my subordinates received a report from the 23rd Air Unit stating that the four men had been executed on same day. I don't know if the report was received by telephone or by messenger. I don't know who received the report nor the one who sent it.

Q Did this order to send these four men come from Admiral FURUKAWA or did it come from Commander SONOKAWA?

A Ordinarily Admiral FURUKAWA would give orders to Commander SONOKAWA but sometimes the Senior Staff Officers took matters in their own hands and later reported to Admiral FURUKAWA. I am not sure about this particular order.

Q Was this an order from Commander SONOKAWA or a mere request?

A It was an order from Commander SONOKAWA.

Q In the report that you received from the 23rd Air Unit did it state what unit or what personnel had performed the execution?

A The message that I received was a verbal report and it only stated that the men had been executed.

Q Was the original radio message that was sent from Makassar signed by Admiral OSUGI?

A When messages are sent it must be signed or stamped by some officer with authority. This particular message was sent to the commanding officer of the Kendari Dispatch Unit which was myself. It was sent from 23rd Special Naval Base Headquarters. Although the message did not have "headquarters" written on it, it had a symbol of headquarters. The symbol is a triangular flag that is used only by the headquarters and I had previously received messages with this symbol and they had been sent from Admiral OSUGI and there was no doubt in my mind about this one. And after this I received other radio messages with the same symbol which had come from OSUGI.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Q When you sent the radio message about the nine Americans having been executed, did you send it to the commanding officer of the 23rd Special Naval Base?
- A Yes, I put the same symbol that designated the headquarters of the 23rd Special Naval Base and with that symbol it had to go to the highest ranking officer for his signature.
- Q Do you know where Lt. Saburo TAKITA is at present?
- A He left Kendari about 9th or 10th of February 1945 for Japan.
- Q Do you by chance know TAKITA's home address in Japan?
- A Kagawa Ken.
- Q Do you know his occupation?
- A He is an officer in the merchant marine.
- Q How old is TAKITA?
- A About 50 years old.
- Q Can you describe him?
- A He was about 5 feet, 2 or 3 inches tall, weighed about 120 pounds. He had false teeth. He wore glasses when reading. Has quite a large amount of hair for an old man. He has a mustache.
- Q Do you know where Ensign HITANI, Toshio, Warrant Officer OGAWA, Warrant Officer YAMAMOTO, Chief Petty Officer TANAKA and Ensign CHUMA are now?
- A HITANI is here; OGAWA, Benten; YAMAMOTO, Benten; TANAKA, is here; CHUMA, unknown.
- Q Do you know where Admiral Tanotsu FURUKAWA is at present?
- A The 23rd Air Unit moved to Java in March of last year and the admiral went to Java at that time. I don't know where he is at present.
- Q Do you know where Commander SONOKAWA (FNU) is at present?
- A He left Kendari sometime in February 1945 and went to Makassar on his way to Japan.
- Q Can you describe SONOKAWA?
- A No. I remember no distinguishing features about him.
- Q Do you know where in Japan he lives?
- A No.
- Q Where were these five Americans buried?
- A They were buried in the same place where they were executed about 200 yards from the barracks of the Rikkei Tai (Land Guard Unit).

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Q Are the bodies still there?
A Of course.
- Q Did you ever repair the graves of those five Americans?
A I had some stones placed around the grave.
- Q Do you have anything else you want to tell us about the nine Americans?
A Yes. I would like to say this. I hear that the authorities from Makassar are denying that the message was sent but it is true. We anticipated an Allied landing in July 1945 and we destroyed all of our records or I could show you the message I received and a copy of the one I sent. I had no reason to execute these men. I had been in command of this unit for only two months and it was a decision too important for me to make.
- Q Tell us about the other three Americans who were detained in Kendari last year?
A About the 15th or 16 of January 1945 a flight of about 30 P-38s came over and bombed an airstrip about 40 or 50 kilometers from Kendari. One of these planes was shot down and the searching party was sent out by the 23rd Air Unit and one American was found about the 18th or 19th of January in an empty hut in the evening. He was taken to the hospital of the 23rd Air Unit the following day.
- Q How long did he stay in the hospital there?
A He stayed in the hospital two or three days. He was wounded in the head and chest.
- Q After he had been in the hospital where did he go?
A He was brought to Kendari Tokkei Tai about the 23rd or 24th and placed in the hospital of the Tokkei Tai.
- Q Did you see him when he was brought to Kendari?
A Yes, I saw him, the first day he was brought to Kendari. I went out when I heard that an automobile came in and I saw the American standing by it.
- Q Where were you when you talked to this American?
A I talked to him in the office of the Tokkei Tai.
- Q What did you talk to him about?
A I told him that I was commanding officer of that detachment and that his wounds would be taken care of by the doctor. And I told him that if there is anything he wanted, to let me know and would make him as comfortable as possible. I had already heard that he was a major and his name was ENDERS (?) (FNU).
- Q Did you ask him any questions at that time?
A No. He was a patient and besides it was not my duty.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Q Was the major wounded in any way?
A Yes. He had a wound in the head and I heard he had internal injuries in the chest. He had a bandage around his head and also one around his chest.
- Q Do you know where the major came from?
A I did not hear exactly. I think all planes attacking Kendari came from Morotai. I understood that the major was the flight commander of the flight of P-38s.
- Q How long was the major kept in Kendari Tokkei Tai?
A Less than a month I believe. He stayed there less than a month and it was the 13th of February 1945 that I received an order to send him to Makassar. I mentioned that to a doctor and he told me that the major had died that morning.
- Q Was the major interrogated while he was at Kendari Tokkei Tai?
A I heard that the officers from the 23rd Air Unit came down two or three times to question the American prisoner.
- Q Do you know the names of those officers?
A. I don't know.
- Q Do you know who acted as interpreter?
A I don't know exactly but I suppose NOSE was called.
- Q Do you know NOSE's first name?
A No.
- Q Do you know where he is now?
A No.
- Q Did the major receive proper medical attention?
A Yes. The major received proper medical attention. Special food was prepared for him because we knew that he was not accustomed to our own food.
- Q Did you see the major quite often during the time he was in Kendari?
A I saw him only once; that was the date he arrived.
- Q Who was the doctor that treated the major?
A Lieutenant FUJINO (FNU).
- Q Where is he now?
A Benten.
- Q Where was the major buried?
A Major ENDLERS was buried about 200 yards east of the barracks.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Q Was the major wounded in any way?
A Yes. He had a wound in the head and I heard he had internal injuries in the chest. He had a bandage around his head and also one around his chest.
- Q Do you know where the major came from?
A I did not hear exactly. I think all planes attacking Kendari came from Morotai. I understood that the major was the flight commander of the flight of P-38s.
- Q How long was the major kept in Kendari Tokkei Tai?
A Less than a month I believe. He stayed there less than a month and it was the 13th of February 1945 that I received an order to send him to Makassar. I mentioned that to a doctor and he told me that the major had died that morning.
- Q Was the major interrogated while he was at Kendari Tokkei Tai?
A I heard that the officers from the 23rd Air Unit came down two or three times to question the American prisoner.
- Q Do you know the names of those officers?
A. I don't know.
- Q Do you know who acted as interpreter?
A I don't know exactly but I suppose NOSE was called.
- Q Do you know NOSE's first name?
A No.
- Q Do you know where he is now?
A No.
- Q Did the major receive proper medical attention?
A Yes. The major received proper medical attention. Special food was prepared for him because we knew that he was not accustomed to our own food.
- Q Did you see the major quite often during the time he was in Kendari?
A I saw him only once; that was the date he arrived.
- Q Who was the doctor that treated the major?
A Lieutenant FUJINO (FNU).
- Q Where is he now?
A Benten.
- Q Where was the major buried?
A Major ENDERS was buried about 200 yards east of the barracks.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Q Do you know of anything more about Major ENDERS?
A No.

Q Will you tell us about the two other men you mentioned being detained by the Tokkei Tai in February 1945?

A About the 16th or 17th of February 1945 one American non-commissioned officer was brought to the Tokkei Tai. The next day another American non-commissioned officer was brought to the Tokkei Tai. I don't know what type of plane they had come from nor do I know who apprehended them and brought them to the Tokkei Tai. As each man was brought to the Tokkei Tai he was brought to the headquarters and I talked to him there. They were then taken to the Tokkei Tai and kept there about four or five days and then they were taken to Makassar by Chief Petty Officer SO, Shigeru and I believe they were turned over to the Makassar Tokkei Tai. I don't know if they were investigated while they were at Tokkei Tai or not.

Q When you talked to these men one at a time, did you hear their names?

A Yes, I asked their names but I have forgotten.

Q Do you remember the rank of these men?

A One man told me he was a corporal. I don't know the rank of the other except he was a non-commissioned officer.

Q What action did you take when these two men were brought to the Tokkei Tai?

A I sent a message to the headquarters of the 23rd Special Naval Base in Makassar when each American was brought to the Tokkei Tai. As a result of this radio-gram I received orders from Makassar to send the two Americans to Makassar. I sent them by boat with Petty Officer SO in charge of them.

Q Do you know what finally happened to the two Americans?

A I never heard anything further about them.

Q I was told that you had a watch and ring in your possession. What was the make of the watch?

A Omega. I wanted a watch and I asked the Tokkei Tai to send me one. I knew they had such things in their possession and Warrant Officer WAKASUGI (FNU) sent this watch to me. WAKASUGI took CHUFA's place when CHUMA left.

Q What did you do with the watch?

A After the war ended we were not sure for a couple of weeks that the war was actually over but when we became convinced that the war was over I decided to destroy the evidence and I threw it in the Kendari Bay about 25 or 26 of August 1945.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Q Where did you get the ring?
A When I moved to my new headquarters about 14 or 15 of October, SATO, Torao brought this ring to me. Before this, an order had been issued that all such evidence should be destroyed.
- Q Who issued this order?
A I think Vice-Admiral SHIBATA, Yaichiro issued it. He was commanding officer of the 2nd Southern Area Dispatch Fleet.
- Q Can you describe the ring?
A It looked like the one you have on (an ordinary College class ring, yellow gold with a black set).
- Q Was it an Air Corps ring?
A I don't know.
- Q When did SATO bring this ring to you?
A About the middle of October 1945.
- Q Where did SATO get the ring?
A He said it belonged to Major ENDERS.
- Q Did he tell you where he got it?
A No. He just told me it had belonged to Major ENDERS.
- Q What did you do with it?
A I told him to leave it with me. The next day I threw it in the sea.
- Q Was force, threats, duress, or coercion used in taking this statement from you?
A No.
- Q Was any promise of reward, immunity, or consideration given as a result of this statement?
A No.
- Q Have you anything further to add to your statement?
A No.

/s/ Gosuke Taniguchi
GOSUKE TANIGUCHI

↑
NETHERLANDS INDIES)
CELEBES) SS
CITY OF MAKASSAR)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

I, GOSUKE TANIGUCHI, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein, consisting of nine (9) pages, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Gosuke Taniguchi
GOSUKE TANIGUCHI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of April, 1946.

/s/ Warren G. Hawkins
WARREN G. HAWKINS, 1st Lt., INF.
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment

I have re-read the above statement this 4 day of May 1946 on board FS 319 and all answers are true. I have no change to make or supplemental statement to dictate.

/s/ Gosuke Taniguchi

↑
[NETHERLANDS INDIES)
CELEBES) SS
CITY OF MAKASSAR)

I, MASAO DOUE, T/3, ASN 30111100, War Crimes Branch, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English, and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing nine (9) pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

/s/ Masao Doue
MASAO DOUE

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of April, 1946.

/s/ Warren G. Hawkins
WARREN G. HAWKINS, 1st Lt., INF.
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTEDC E R T I F I C A T E

We, WARREN G. HAWKINS, 1st Lt., O-540420, INF. and LAWRENCE S. TOHILL, 1st Lt., O-926022, FA, certify that on 11th day of April, 1946, personally appeared before us GOSUKE TANIGUCHI, and according to MASAO DOUE, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said GOSUKE TANIGUCHI had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in our presence.

Makassar, Celebes
(Place)

12 April 1946
(Date)

/s/ Warren G. Hawkins
WARREN G. HAWKINS, 1st Lt., INF.
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment

/s/ Lawrence S. Tohill
LAWRENCE S. TOHILL, 1st Lt., FA
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment

RESTRICTED

5532

Doc

蘭領印度
セックス
マカサニ市

}

SS

谷口國輔(署名)

私、エドワード(戦争犯罪課技術三等軍曹、上級認識番号
三〇一一一〇〇号)にエドワードに面会し、質問及び返答を英語より日本
語より日本語より英語に正しく翻訳したルコエ及び翻寫作製後、私に
対面し、成りし時指し供する証人エドワードに証人此處に於て私
面前にエドワード署名したルコエを陳述ス。

エドワード(署名)

一九四六年四月十二日 私、面前にエドワード署名面会せり

戦争犯罪調査隊調査官中尉

エドワード・G・ホーサック(署名)

証人書

私、エドワード・G・ホーサック中尉、オーランド、フロリダに
駐在し、一九四六年四月十二日私に面会し、谷口國輔(個人
的)の証人エドワードに質問及び返答を英語より日本語に
正しく翻訳し、証人、翻寫を作製する。その後、証人谷口國輔
に前記通訳より同様の証人エドワードに面会し、証人エドワードに
タビコエを証明ス。

(場所) セックス マカサニ

(日時) 一九四六年四月十二日

戦争犯罪調査隊調査官中尉 エドワード・G・ホーサック(署名)

戦争犯罪調査隊調査官中尉 オーランド、フロリダ(署名)

☆
No. 2